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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/777.315	02/05/2001	Albertus Van Zanten	502-010097-US(PAR)	3383
2512	7590	04/06/2004	EXAMINER	
PERMAN & GREEN 425 POST ROAD FAIRFIELD, CT 06824			PHAN, HANH	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2633	

DATE MAILED: 04/06/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/777,315

Applicant(s)

ZANTEN ET AL.

Examiner

Hanh Phan

Art Unit

2633

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 February 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 11-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,12-15 and 17-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11 and 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responsive to the Amendment filed on 01/12/2004.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 11 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 11 recites the limitation "said first set of insulating sheets" in lines 5 and 7. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 16 recites the limitation "said first set of insulating sheets" in lines 5 and 7. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 12-15 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jiang et al (US Patent No. 6,213,651) in view of Brimhall et al (US Patent No. 6,456,720).

Regarding claims 1 and 15, referring to Figure 1, Jiang discloses an electro-optical connector module (i.e., fiber optic module 100, Fig. 1) comprising a connection

part (i.e., electrical element 104 and an optical block 102, Fig. 1), at least one optical transmitter circuit and/or optical receiver circuit (i.e., a transmit printed circuit board PCB 106 and a light transmitter 110, and a receive printed circuit board PCB 108 and light receiver 111, Fig. 1) and at least one electro-optical converter (i.e., light transmitter 110 and light receiver 111, Fig. 1) for respectively converting electrical signals into optical signals or vice versa; the module (i.e., fiber optic module 100) further comprises at least two substantially flat and substantially parallel electrically insulating sheets (i.e., transmit printed circuit board PCB 106 and receive printed circuit board PCB 108, Fig. 1) on which the transmitter circuit and/or receiver circuit and the converter are mounted respectively (col. 3, lines 39-67 and col. 4, lines 1-55).

Jiang differs from claims 1 and 15 in that he does not specifically teach the first and second sheets are connected to adjacent sides of a third sheet, the first, second, and third sheets being positioned in overlapping parallel relation by folding of a flexible sheet material linking the first and third sheets and the second and third sheets. However, Brimhall teaches the first and second sheets are connected to adjacent sides of a third sheet, the first, second, and third sheets being positioned in overlapping parallel relation by folding of a flexible sheet material linking the first and third sheets and the second and third sheets (see Figures 13-17, col. 10, lines 62-67, col. 11, lines 1-67 and col. 12, lines 1-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the first and second sheets are connected to adjacent sides of a third sheet, the first, second, and third sheets being positioned in overlapping parallel relation by folding of a flexible sheet material

linking the first and third sheets and the second and third sheets as taught by Brimhall in the system of Jiang. One of ordinary in the art would have been motivated to do this since Brimhall suggests in column 10, lines 62-67, col. 11, lines 1-67 and col. 12, lines 1-45 that using such first and second sheets are connected to adjacent sides of a third sheet, the first, second, and third sheets being positioned in overlapping parallel relation by folding of a flexible sheet material linking the first and third sheets and the second and third sheets have advantage of allowing the components can be attached to the sheets with a maximum of space is available and form an integral whole and minimize the size of the device.

Regarding claims 12 and 17, Jiang further teaches the connection part is constructed for making electrical connections (col. 4, lines 5-55).

Regarding claims 13 and 18, Jiang teaches further comprising an optical connection part (i.e., optical block 102, Fig. 2, col. 4, lines 5-55).

Regarding claims 14 and 19, the combination of Jiang and Brimhall teaches the insulating sheets cooperate with a connection block to form a substantially rigid assembly (Figs. 1 and 2 of Jiang and Figs. 13-17 of Brimhall).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 11 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 11-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh Phan whose telephone number is (703)306-5840.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan, can be reached on (703)305-4729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-4700.



Hanh Phan

Patent Examiner

04/01/2004